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The Empire and the Papacy (918–1273). By T. F. TOUT, M.A., Professor of History at the Owens College, Victoria University, Manchester. (New York : The Macmillan Co. 1898. Pp. vii, 526.)

THE function of Mr. Tout among the writers in the Macmillan series of "Periods of European History" was to make a book of some five hundred pages on the period from 918, where Mr. Oman's volume ends, to 1273, where the next writer takes up the work. He desired, he says, in the absence of any sufficiently full existing text-book, to cover as much of the whole ground as his space allowed, but has in fact limited himself to narrating, with some amount of detail, the political and ecclesiastical history of Germany, France and the Eastern Empire. This is a very considerable programme and on the whole Mr. Tout has carried it out with fair success. The student will find in the twenty-one chapters a little something about almost everything. There are fourteen maps, showing in black and white the territorial divisions referred to in the text. There are ten genealogical tables, an appendix giving tables of rulers, references to literature and a sufficient index. What more can one ask in a text-book?

There are two ideals in the writing of text-books, either of which if carefully followed may produce good results. The book should be the overflow of the learning and insight of a thorough scholar or else it should grow naturally out of the need and experience of a successful teacher. The present volume corresponds to neither of these ideals. The author has evidently read a good deal in standard histories and in many of the most recent treatises on special epochs. He has profited by this reading so well that no one is likely to be led far astray by any of his presentations of fact. Yet at the same time one cannot feel that he has a mastery of his period which enables him to put the selected facts together in such a way as to give an impression of continuity or necessary relationship. He attempts a continuous narration, but there is no "go" in it. He is a victim of the desire to write flowing English, which is the bane of English historical book-makers. His style ambles withal, but the gait is monotonous to weariness. On one page we find five sentences introduced by "now." The number of clauses connected by "while" is beyond counting. This dreary monotony of style corresponds to the lack of color in the choice of what is to be told. Here is a typical passage: "Frederick II. was just twenty years old when the death of Innocent III. allowed him to govern as well as to reign. He was of middle height and well-proportioned, though becoming somewhat corpulent as he advanced in age. He had good features and a pleasant appearance. His light hair, like that of his father and grandfather, inclined toward redness, but he ultimately became very bald." Really our youth can do without this kind of thing, especially where space is precious.

Another legitimate demand on the modern text-book is that it shall lead the mind of the student out into larger fields of inquiry. It must

suggest vastly more than it says. Tried by this test Mr. Tout comes again very far short of what we may rightly expect. His bibliographical references, put in the form of occasional foot-notes, are too meagre to be of service to any one, and are of the most hap-hazard description. For example: the only works referred to about Hildebrand are Stephens (Epoch), Bowden and Villemain! Far better would be no bibliographies at all. There is hardly any suggestion of original sources. "Otto of Freising is a first-rate original chronicler" is almost the only reference of the kind. All names of books mentioned are without date of publication.

It is of course impossible for a book of this size to go into the endless controversies of special scholarship; but it may well bring some of them to the attention of students. It will thus avoid that fatal effect of knowing it all, which is so deadening to the mind of youth. This book does next to nothing of this work and loses thus one of its best opportunities. As an aid to the student in gaining a wider outlook the book is valueless.

We can have no quarrel with the due emphasis upon leading personalities, but such reference must be to things important in their effect upon the movement of history. We ought to be well beyond that conception of history which begot such phrases as "The king, enraged at," or "the duke, flushed with." Let us tell our students what happened and, in so far as we can, why it happened and what came of it, and be content if we can do that.

Almost every paragraph in the introduction suggests fruitful points of controversy, but we call attention only to the word "transition" and its questionable application to this period, which is marked, if ever any period was, by perfectly definable and persistent institutions. Unless we are to give up the word altogether, we must apply it where it belongs, to the period just preceding and to that just following the one here described. Those are transitions from something to something.

Township and Borough: being the Ford Lectures delivered in the University of Oxford in 1897, together with an appendix of notes relating to the history of the town of Cambridge. By FREDERIC WILLIAM MAITLAND, LL.D. (Cambridge: The University Press. 1898. Pp. ix, 220.)

RESEARCH in the field of English municipal history has long been hampered by the need of good printed collections of town records and by the scarcity of scholarly monographs on the constitutional development of particular boroughs. Within the past ten or fifteen years a few well-edited volumes of records have appeared, but there has not yet been published a single complete and detailed history of any borough. Though there are probably more than a hundred thousand books on English local history, including works on counties, towns, manors, churches, etc., many of which contain valuable material, few of them furnish a good critical account of local institutions. For example, Cooper's *An-*